

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

OSCAR URIEL BARRON-GONZALEZ,

Defendant.

CASE NO. CR16-0136-JCC

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the Government's motions to seal (Dkt. Nos. 274, 281) its sentencing memorandum (Dkt. No. 279), related exhibits (Dkt. Nos. 279, 279-1, 279-2, 279-3), and its supplemental briefing (Dkt. No. 282). The Court starts from the position that "[t]here is a strong presumption of public access to [its] files." W.D. Wash. Local Civ. R. 5(g). To overcome this presumption, there must be a "compelling reason" for sealing sufficient to outweigh the public's interest in disclosure. *Center for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Group, LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1100 (9th Cir. 2016) (applying the "compelling reason" test to motions to seal documents "more than tangentially related to the merits of a case"). Information contained in the Government's sentencing memorandum (Dkt. No. 279) and supplemental briefing (Dkt. No. 282) is confidential law enforcement information that the public has no more than a minimal interest in, the disclosure of which could be damaging to the Government and members of the public. On this basis, the Court finds there is a compelling reason to seal these documents that

1 outweighs the public's interest in their disclosure. However, no such confidential information is
2 included in the Government's exhibits attached to its sentencing memorandum (Dkt. Nos. 279-1,
3 279-2, 279-3). These exhibits should not be maintained under seal.

4 For the foregoing reasons, Defendant's motions to seal (Dkt. Nos. 274, 281) are
5 GRANTED in part and DENIED in part. The Clerk is DIRECTED to maintain Docket Numbers
6 279 and 282 under seal but should unseal Docket Numbers 279-1, 279-2, and 279-3.

7 DATED this 4th day of September 2018.

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11 John C. Coughenour
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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